

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION**

CANDACE SEARCY, §
§
Plaintiff, §
VS. § Civil Action No. 4:23-CV-992-P (BJ)
§
FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT §
SCHOOL DISTRICT, §
§
Defendant. §

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE AND NOTICE AND ORDER**

In this case, Plaintiff has filed a civil case with a complaint and a motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis. ECF Nos. 1, 5. Although originally filed in the Dallas division, the case was transferred to this the Fort Worth division. ECF Nos. 611. The case was referred to the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Special Order No. 3. The findings, conclusions and recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge are as follows:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

A. NATURE OF THE CASE

This case is a new civil action.

B. PARTIES

Candace Searcy is the plaintiff. Compl.1, ECF No. 1. She lists the Fort Worth Independent School District as the only defendant. *Id.* at 1-2.

C. LEGAL ANALYSIS

Plaintiff filed a completed long-form motion to proceed in forma pauperis under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 *et. seq.* ECF No. 5. That application/motion includes the income and asset information for the plaintiff.

Whether to permit or deny an applicant to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP) is within the sound discretion of the Court. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a); *Prows v. Kastner*, 842 F.2d 138, 140 (5th Cir. 1988). Courts should make the determination of financial ability after considering whether payment of the filing fee will result in the plaintiff “suffering undue financial hardship.” *Prows*, 842 F.2d at 140. “This entails a review of other demands on individual plaintiffs’ financial resources, including whether the expenses are discretionary or mandatory.” *Id.*

In her financial affidavit, Plaintiff declares that she has earned \$5,200 in income in prior months and expects to earn \$5,200 next month. ECF No. 5 at 1-2. Her employment history also shows that she previously earned between \$4,600 and \$5,100 a month. *Id.* at 2. Plaintiff has listed three dependents. *Id.* at 3. The poverty level for a family of four is \$30,000. At a monthly income of \$5,200, Plaintiff’s annual income of \$62,400 is more than double the applicable poverty guideline. Thus, based on the information in the application, Plaintiff has sufficient resources to pay the filing and administrative fees, and the undersigned will recommend denial of the in forma pauperis motion.

RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that Plaintiff’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis [ECF No. 5] be **DENIED** by the district judge.

It is further **RECOMMENDED** that the district judge inform Plaintiff that the complaint will be subject to dismissal without further notice under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), unless Plaintiff pays to the clerk of Court the filing and administrative fees of \$402.00¹ within seven (7) days after the district judge's order.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO OBJECT TO PROPOSED
FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
AND CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO OBJECT

A copy of this report and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), each party to this action has the right to serve and file specific written objections in the United States District Court to the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation within fourteen (14) days after the party has been served with a copy of this document. The United States District Judge need only make a de novo determination of those portions of the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation to which specific objection is timely made. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Failure to file by the date stated above a specific written objection to a proposed factual finding or legal conclusion will bar a party, except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice, from attacking on appeal any such proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the United States District Judge. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Auto Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428–29 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc), superseded by statute 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) (extending the deadline to file objections from ten to fourteen days).

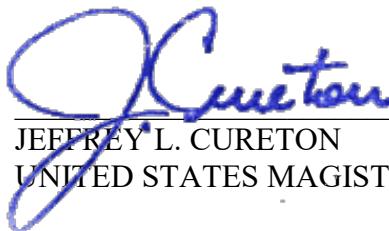
¹In addition to the filing fee of \$350, the District Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule requires payment of an administrative fee for filing a civil action in district court of \$52. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) and District Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule, note 14.

ORDER

Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, it is **ORDERED** that Plaintiff is granted until **October 19, 2023** to serve and file written objections to the United States Magistrate Judge's proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation.

It is further **ORDERED** that the above-styled and numbered action, previously referred to the United States Magistrate Judge for findings, conclusions and recommendation, be and is hereby, **RETURNED** to the docket of the United States District Judge.

SIGNED October 5, 2023.



JEFFREY L. CURETON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE